



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Deputy Secretary

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 1387 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Disposal of Unused Prescription Drugs
("Operation Take-back")

Dear Chairman Hammen and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or "the Department") has reviewed *House Bill 1387 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Disposal of Unused Prescription Drugs ("Operation Take-back")*. We would like to express our support for the overall objectives of take back programs and the proper collection, transportation, management, and disposal of unwanted drugs.

HB 1387 would place requirements on pharmacists to include information about disposing of unused medication on prescription labels, post signs about disposal and provide containers for people to use to dispose of their unused prescription drugs. This bill is well intentioned in trying to reduce or eliminate drug ingredients from reaching the waters of the State. This bill places no requirements on MDE but we strongly support it since it may have a positive effect on water quality from the proper disposal of unused prescription drugs.

HB 1387 has merit in protecting Maryland's water environment. Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor this bill during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at lnissley@mde.state.md.us if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

cc: The Honorable Elizabeth Bobo
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy
Horacio Tablada, MDE, Director, Land Management Administration
Jay G. Sakai, MDE, Director, Water Management Administration